

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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:  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
:

-v-  
:

IVANJOEL ARYEETAY,  
:

Defendant.  
:  
-----X

23 Cr. 561 (JPC)

ORDER

JOHN P. CRONAN, United States District Judge:

The Court will hold a charge conference on November 1, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in Courtroom 12D of the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York 10007. The parties should be prepared to raise any objections to the proposed jury charge and verdict form, which are attached as exhibits to this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 31, 2024  
New York, New York



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JOHN P. CRONAN  
United States District Judge



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2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

-v-

IVANJOEL ARYEETAY,

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23 Cr. 561 (JPC)

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**JURY CHARGE**

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**I. Introduction**

Members of the jury, you have now heard all of the evidence in the case, as well as the final arguments of the parties. We have reached the point where you are about to undertake your final function as jurors. You have paid careful attention to the evidence, and I am confident that you will act together with fairness and impartiality to reach a just verdict.

These instructions will include some general guidance about your role and about how you are to decide the facts of the case, including the burden of proof you must apply. Many of these instructions would apply to any trial.

I will also give you more specific instructions about the legal rules applicable to this particular case, including a description of the elements of the charge against the Defendant, Ivanjoel Aryeetey.

And lastly, I will give you instructions on the general rules governing your deliberations.

I will read most, if not all, of these instructions to you. It is not my favorite way to communicate with a jury, but there is a crucial need for precision in what I tell you. The law is stated and expressed in words, and those words are very carefully chosen. So when I tell you the law, it is critical that I use exactly the right words.

I have given each of you a copy of this charge. If you find it easier to listen and understand while you are following along with me, please do so. If you prefer, you can just listen and not follow along. Either way, you will have a copy of these instructions with you in the jury room, so you can refer to them if you want to re-read any portion to facilitate your deliberations. Because you will have a copy in the jury room, do not worry if you miss a word or two. For now, listen carefully and try to concentrate on the substance of what I am saying. I ask for your patience, cooperation, and attention.

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1 You will also have with you in the jury room a verdict form on which to record your verdict.  
2 That form will have the question you must consider.

## 3 II. General Instructions

### 4 A. Role of the Court

5 My duty at this point is to instruct you as to the law. It is your duty to accept these  
6 instructions of law, along with the instructions I have given you during the course of the trial, and  
7 to apply them to the facts as you determine them. It has been my duty to preside over the trial and  
8 to decide what testimony and evidence were proper under the law for your consideration.

9 On these legal matters, you must take the law as I give it to you. If anyone has stated a  
10 legal principle that is different from any that I state to you in my instructions, it is my instructions  
11 that you must follow. You should consider these instructions together as a whole; in other words,  
12 you should not isolate or give undue weight to any particular instruction or part of the instructions.

### 13 B. Role of the Jury

14 As members of the jury, you are the sole and exclusive judges of the facts. You pass upon  
15 the evidence. You determine the credibility of the witnesses. You resolve whatever conflicts, if  
16 any, there may be in the evidence presented by the parties. You draw whatever reasonable  
17 inferences you believe should be drawn from the facts as you have determined them, and you  
18 determine the weight of the evidence. In doing so, remember that you took an oath to render  
19 judgment impartially and fairly, without prejudice or sympathy or fear, based solely on the  
20 evidence and the law.

21 It is your sworn duty, and you have taken the oath as jurors, to determine the facts and to  
22 follow the law as I give it to you. You must not substitute your own notions or opinions of what  
23 the law is or ought to be.

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1     **C.     Equality of the Parties**

2             I remind you that in reaching your verdict, you are to perform your duty of finding the facts  
3     without bias or prejudice as to any party. You must remember that all parties stand as equals  
4     before a jury in the courts of the United States. You must also remember that it would be improper  
5     for you to allow any feelings you might have about the nature of the crimes charged to interfere  
6     with your decision-making process.

7             This case is important to Mr. Aryeetey, who is charged with a serious crime. It is also  
8     important to the Government, for the enforcement of criminal laws is a matter of prime concern to  
9     the public.

10            The fact that the prosecution is brought in the name of the United States does not entitle  
11     the Government or its witnesses to any greater consideration than that accorded to any other party.  
12     By the same token, the Government is entitled to no less consideration. Your verdict must be  
13     based solely on the evidence or the lack of evidence.

14     **D.     Presumption of Innocence**

15            Now, I will instruct you on the presumption of innocence and the Government's burden of  
16     proof in this case. Mr. Aryeetey has pleaded not guilty. In doing so, he has denied every allegation  
17     charged against him. As a result of Mr. Aryeetey's plea of not guilty, the burden is on the  
18     Government to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This burden never shifts to Mr.  
19     Aryeetey for the simple reason that the law never imposes on a defendant in a criminal case the  
20     burden or duty of calling any witness or producing any evidence.

21            Mr. Aryeetey began this trial with a clean slate. The law presumes him to be innocent of  
22     the charge against him. This presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to acquit Mr. Aryeetey  
23     unless you as jurors are unanimously convinced beyond a reasonable doubt of his guilt, after



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1 careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in this case. Mr. Aryeetey was entitled to  
2 this presumption when the trial began; it remains with him even now as I speak to you; and it will  
3 continue with him during your deliberations unless and until you are convinced that the  
4 Government has proved his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

5 Your verdict must be unanimous on the count of the Indictment. If the Government fails  
6 to sustain its burden as to that count, then you must find Mr. Aryeetey not guilty.

7 **E. Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt**

8 Now, the next question naturally presents itself, what is reasonable doubt? The words  
9 almost define themselves. It is a doubt that a reasonable person has after carefully weighing all of  
10 the evidence. It is a doubt that would cause a reasonable person to hesitate to act in a matter of  
11 importance in his or her personal life. Reasonable doubt requires more than a belief that a  
12 defendant is probably guilty. On the other hand, a reasonable doubt is not speculation or suspicion.  
13 It is not an excuse to avoid the performance of an unpleasant duty. And it is not sympathy.

14 Proof beyond a reasonable doubt therefore does not require the Government to establish  
15 proof of guilt as an absolute certainty or beyond all possible doubt. Instead, the Government must  
16 establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt with proof of such a convincing character that a  
17 reasonable person would not hesitate to rely and act upon it in the most important of his or her  
18 own affairs.

19 If after fair and impartial consideration of all the evidence, or the lack of evidence, you  
20 have a reasonable doubt as to Mr. Aryeetey's guilt on the count of the Indictment, then you must  
21 find him not guilty. On the other hand, if after fair and impartial consideration of all the evidence  
22 you are satisfied of Mr. Aryeetey's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, it is your duty to find Mr.  
23 Aryeetey guilty.

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**F. Nature of the Evidence**

In determining the facts, you must rely upon your own recollection of the evidence. What is evidence? Evidence consists of the testimony of witnesses, the exhibits that I have received in evidence, and the stipulations of the parties.

The statements and arguments made by the lawyers are not evidence. Their arguments were intended to convince you what conclusions you should draw from the evidence or lack of evidence. Now, those arguments are important. You should weigh and evaluate them carefully. But you must not confuse them with the evidence. And your recollection of the evidence at trial governs, not the statements of the lawyers.

You should also bear in mind that a question put to a witness is never evidence. It is the answer to the question that is evidence. One exception to this is that you may not consider any answer that I directed you to disregard or that I ordered to be stricken from the record. Any exhibit that was not received into evidence is not evidence. Thus, exhibits marked for identification but not admitted are not evidence, nor are materials that were used only to refresh a witness's recollection or to question or impeach a witness.

The personalities and the conduct of counsel are not in any way at issue. If you formed opinions of any kind about any of the lawyers in the case, favorable or unfavorable, whether you approved or disapproved of their behavior, those opinions should not enter into your deliberations.

Nothing I have said during trial is evidence. If I commented on the evidence at any time, do not accept my statements in place of your recollection or your interpretation.

At times I may have admonished a witness or directed a witness to be responsive to questions or to keep his or her voice up. At times, I may have repeated a question asked or asked a question myself. Any questions that I asked, or instructions that I gave, were intended only to

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clarify the presentation of evidence and to bring out something that I thought might be unclear. You should draw no inference or conclusion of any kind, favorable or unfavorable, with respect to any witness or any party in the case, by reason of any comment, question, or instruction of mine. Nor should you infer that I might have any views as to the credibility of any witness, as to the weight of the evidence, or as to how you should decide any issue that is before you. That is entirely your role.

**G. Direct and Circumstantial Evidence**

As I mentioned at the beginning of trial, there are two types of evidence that you may properly use in deciding whether a defendant is guilty or not guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of a crime with which he or she is charged.

One type of evidence is called direct evidence. Direct evidence of a fact in issue is presented when a witness testifies to that fact based on that witness's own knowledge, by virtue of what he or she personally saw, heard, or observed.

The second type of evidence is circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence is evidence that tends to prove a disputed fact indirectly by proof of other facts. There is a simple example of circumstantial evidence that is often used in this courthouse.

Assume that when you came into the courthouse this morning that the sun was shining and it was a nice day outdoors. Assume that throughout the day, the courtroom shades were drawn and you could not look outside. Assume further that as you were sitting here, someone walked in with an umbrella that was dripping wet, and then, a few moments later, somebody else walked in with a raincoat that was also dripping wet. Now, because you were indoors and unable to look outside to see whether it was raining, you would have no direct evidence as to whether it was

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1 raining. But, on the combination of facts that I have asked you to assume, it would be reasonable  
2 and logical for you to conclude that it was raining.

3 That is all there is to circumstantial evidence. You infer based on your reason, experience,  
4 and common sense from one established fact the existence or nonexistence of some other fact.

5 To be very clear, circumstantial evidence may be given as much weight as direct evidence.  
6 Many material facts, such as state of mind, are not easily proved by direct evidence. Usually, such  
7 facts are established by circumstantial evidence and the reasonable inferences you draw. The law  
8 makes no distinction between direct and circumstantial evidence but simply requires that before  
9 convicting a defendant, the jury must be satisfied of a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt,  
10 based on all of the evidence in the case.

#### 11 **H. Inferences**

12 I just mentioned inferences. And in their arguments, you have heard the attorneys ask you  
13 to infer, on the basis of your reason, experience, and common sense, from one or more established  
14 facts, the existence of some other fact.

15 There are times when different inferences may be drawn from facts, whether proved by  
16 direct or circumstantial evidence. The Government may have asked you to draw one set of  
17 inferences, while the defense may have asked you to draw another. It is for you, and you alone, to  
18 decide whether and what inferences you will draw.

19 The process of drawing inferences from facts in evidence is not a matter of guesswork,  
20 suspicion, or speculation. An inference is a reasonable, logical deduction or conclusion that you,  
21 the jury, are permitted—but not required—to draw from the facts that have been established by  
22 either direct or circumstantial evidence.

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1 But please remember that while you should rely on your experience and common sense in  
2 drawing inferences, you may not use your experience and common sense to fill in or create  
3 evidence that does not exist. You use them only to draw reasonable inferences from facts proved  
4 beyond a reasonable doubt or to weigh and evaluate the evidence provided during the trial.

5 **I. Rulings on Evidence and Objections**

6 On the topic of inferences, you should draw no inference or conclusion for or against any  
7 party by reason of lawyers making objections or my rulings on such objections. Counsel have not  
8 only the right, but the duty, to make legal objections when they think that such objections are  
9 appropriate. Nor were my rulings on objections during trial any indication of my views or opinions  
10 of this case. Further, do not concern yourself with what was said at sidebar conferences or during  
11 my discussions with counsel or the parties outside your presence. Those discussions related to  
12 issues of law and are wholly outside of your concern.

13 **J. Credibility of Witnesses**

14 I am going to give you a few general instructions as to how you may determine whether  
15 witnesses are credible and reliable, whether the witnesses told the truth at this trial, and whether  
16 they knew what they were talking about. How do you determine that? When evaluating witness  
17 credibility, you should use your common sense, good judgment, and life experiences.

18 Consider how well the witness was able to observe or hear what he or she testified about.  
19 The witness may be honest but mistaken. How did the witness's testimony impress you? Did the  
20 witness appear to be testifying honestly and candidly? Were the witness's answers direct or were  
21 they evasive? Consider the witness's demeanor, manner of testifying, and the strength and  
22 accuracy of the witness's recollection. Consider whether any outside factors might have affected  
23 a witness's ability to perceive events.

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1 Consider the substance of the testimony. How does the witness's testimony compare with  
2 other proof in the case? Is it corroborated or is it contradicted by other evidence? If there is a  
3 conflict, does any version appear reliable, and if so, which version seems more reliable?

4 In addition, you may consider whether a witness had any possible bias or relationship with  
5 a party or any possible interest in the outcome of the case. Such a bias or relationship does not  
6 necessarily make the witness unworthy of belief. These are simply factors that you may consider.

7 If a witness made statements in the past that are inconsistent with his or her testimony  
8 during the trial concerning facts that are at issue here, you may consider that fact in deciding how  
9 much of the testimony, if any, to believe. In making this determination, you may consider whether  
10 the witness purposely made a false statement, or whether it was an innocent mistake. You may  
11 also consider whether the inconsistency concerns an important fact or merely a small detail, as  
12 well as whether the witness had an explanation for the inconsistency, and if so, whether that  
13 explanation appealed to your common sense.

14 If you find that a witness has testified falsely as to any material fact or if you find that a  
15 witness has been previously untruthful when testifying under oath or otherwise, you may reject  
16 that witness's testimony in its entirety or you may accept only those parts that you believe to be  
17 truthful or that are corroborated by other independent evidence in the case.

18 In addition, you do not have to accept the testimony of any witness who has not been  
19 contradicted or impeached, if you find the witness not to be credible. You also have to decide  
20 which witnesses to believe and which facts are true and which facts are not true. To do this you  
21 must look at all the evidence, drawing upon your own common sense and personal experience and  
22 good judgment.

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1 It is for you, the jury, and for you alone, not the lawyers, or the witnesses, or me as the  
2 judge, to decide the credibility of the witnesses who testified and the weight that their testimony  
3 deserves.

4 **K. Stipulations**

5 You have heard evidence in the form of stipulations of testimony. A stipulation of  
6 testimony is an agreement between the parties, that is to say, the Government and the defense, that  
7 if called as a witness, the person would have given certain testimony. You must accept as true the  
8 fact that the witness would have given that testimony. But it is still for you, the jury, to determine  
9 the weight to be given to that testimony.

10 You have also heard evidence in the form of stipulations of fact. A stipulation of fact is an  
11 agreement among the parties that a certain fact is true. You must accept those facts in stipulations  
12 as true. It is for you, however, to determine the weight to be given to any stipulated fact.

13 **III. Substantive Instructions**

14 **A. Summary of the Indictment**

15 The defendant, Ivanjoel Aryeetey, has been formally charged in what is called an  
16 Indictment. An Indictment is simply an accusation. It is no more than the means by which a  
17 criminal case is started. It is not evidence. It is not proof of a defendant's guilt. You are to give  
18 no weight to the fact that an indictment has been returned against Mr. Aryeetey.

19 Count One of the Indictment charges Mr. Aryeetey with violating Title 18, United States  
20 Code, Section 922(g)(1), which makes it a crime for a person previously convicted of a crime  
21 punishable by more than one year in prison to knowingly possess in or affecting commerce a  
22 firearm. Specifically, Count One charges:

23 On or about September 5, 2023, in the Southern District of New York and  
24 elsewhere, IVANJOEL ARYEETAY, the defendant, knowing he had previously

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1       been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term  
2       exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a firearm, to wit, one 9mm Taurus pistol,  
3       and the firearm was in and affecting commerce.  
4

5       Before you begin your deliberations, you will be provided with a copy of the Indictment.

6       **B.     Variance in Dates**

7       Before I describe the specific elements of this alleged offense, I will advise you that it does  
8       not matter if the Indictment charges that a specific act occurred on or about a certain date, but the  
9       evidence indicates that the specific act, in fact, occurred on another date. The law only requires a  
10      substantial similarity between the date alleged in the Indictment and the date established by the  
11      evidence or the amounts alleged in the Indictment and the amounts established by the evidence.  
12      Thus, it is not necessary for the Government to prove, for example, the exact dates specified in the  
13      Indictment.

14      **C.     Elements of the Offense**

15      To sustain its burden of proof on Count One, the Government must prove beyond a  
16      reasonable doubt the following three elements:

17      *First*, that Mr. Aryeetey knew he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by  
18      imprisonment for a term exceeding one year—in other words, a felony—prior to the date he is  
19      charged with possessing a firearm;

20      *Second*, that Mr. Aryeetey knowingly possessed a firearm; and

21      *Third*, that Mr. Aryeetey's possession of the firearm was in or affecting interstate or foreign  
22      commerce.

23      **1.   First Element – The Defendant's Prior Conviction**

24      The first element that the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt is that Mr.  
25      Aryeetey knew that he had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term



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1 exceeding one year in a court of the United States, or any state, prior to September 5, 2023, the  
2 date he is charged with possessing the firearm.

3 Mr. Aryeetey and the Government have stipulated, or agreed, that prior to September 5,  
4 2023, Mr. Aryeetey had been convicted of such a crime, and that Mr. Aryeetey knew that he had  
5 been convicted of such a crime. Thus, this first element of Count One is not disputed.

6 Mr. Aryeetey's prior conviction is to be considered by you only for the limited purpose of  
7 determining whether this element is satisfied. You are not to consider it for any other purpose.  
8 You are not to speculate as to what the conviction was for. For instance, you may not consider the  
9 prior conviction in any way in deciding whether the Government has proved beyond a reasonable  
10 doubt that Mr. Aryeetey was in knowing possession of a firearm on or about September 5, 2023,  
11 as charged in Count One of the Indictment. Your verdict must be based solely on the evidence  
12 presented in this trial, in accordance with my instructions.

## 13 **2. Second Element – Knowing Possession of a Firearm**

14 The second element that the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt is that on  
15 or about September 5, 2023, Mr. Aryeetey knowingly possessed the firearm that he is charged with  
16 possessing in the Indictment.

### 17 **a. "Firearm"**

18 A "firearm" is pretty much self-explanatory. The technical definition is "any  
19 weapon . . . which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the  
20 action of an explosive." In considering the specific element of whether Mr. Aryeetey possessed a  
21 firearm, it does not matter whether the firearm was loaded or operable at the time of the crime.

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**b. “Possession”**

Possession is pretty much what it sounds like; that is, having physical custody or control of an object, as I possess this pen. This is called “actual possession.” However, it is not necessary that a person have an object on his or her person in order to have legal possession of it. If a person has the ability to exercise substantial control over an object, even if he or she does not have the object in his or her physical custody, and that person has the intent to exercise such control, then the person is in possession of that object. This is called “constructive possession.”

The law also recognizes that possession may be sole or joint. If one person alone possesses an object, that is sole possession. However, it is possible that more than one person may have the power and intention to exercise control over firearms. This is called joint possession. If you find beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Aryeetey had such power and intention, then he possessed the firearm under this element even if he possessed it jointly with another. Proof of ownership of the firearm is not required.

**c. “Knowingly”**

Under this third element, you must also find that the defendant “knowingly” possessed the firearm. In order to “knowingly” possess a firearm, you must find beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Aryeetey possessed the firearm purposely and voluntarily, and not by accident or mistake. “Knowingly” also means that Mr. Aryeetey knew that the weapon was a firearm, as we commonly use the word.

However, the Government is not required to prove that Mr. Aryeetey knew that he was breaking the law. It is sufficient if the defendant possessed the firearm charged in the Indictment purposely and voluntarily, as opposed to by accident or mistake. The length of time of the possession—or the reasons why an item was possessed—are not relevant.

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**3. Third Element – In or Affecting Interstate or Foreign Commerce**

The third element that the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt is that the firearm that Mr. Aryeetey is charged with possessing was in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

This means that the Government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that at some time before Mr. Aryeetey's possession, the firearm had traveled in interstate or foreign commerce. It is sufficient for the Government to satisfy this element by proving that, at some point before Mr. Aryeetey's possession, the firearm moved over a state line or the United States border, so long as they do so beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Aryeetey and the Government have stipulated, or agreed, that the firearm marked as Government Exhibit 1 is a 9mm Taurus USA pistol with a defaced serial number, and that Government Exhibit 1 was not manufactured in the State of New York.

The Government does not have to prove that Mr. Aryeetey himself carried the firearm across a state line or the United States border, nor must the Government prove who carried it across or how it was transported. It is also not necessary for the Government to prove that Mr. Aryeetey knew that the firearm had previously crossed a state or national border.

**D. Venue**

In addition to proving the essential element of Count One that I just mentioned beyond a reasonable doubt, the Government also must prove that at least one act in furtherance of the charge occurred in the Southern District of New York. That act itself need not be a criminal act. This is called establishing venue.

The Southern District of New York includes all of Manhattan and the Bronx, as well as Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, and Sullivan Counties.

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1 Unlike the elements of the offenses which must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, the  
2 Government is only required to prove venue by a preponderance of the evidence. A preponderance  
3 of the evidence means that it is more probable than not that some act in furtherance of the crime  
4 you are considering occurred in this District. But I remind you that the Government must prove  
5 all other elements of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt.

6 If you find that the Government has failed to prove venue on Count One, then you must  
7 find Mr. Aryeetey not guilty.

8 **E. Defense Theory of the Case**

9 *To be proposed by defense.*

10 **IV. Further General Instructions**

11 **A. Preparation of Witnesses**

12 You have heard evidence that, prior to appearing in court, witnesses have discussed the  
13 facts of the case and their testimony with the lawyers. Although you may consider this fact when  
14 you are evaluating a witness's credibility, I should tell you that there is nothing improper or  
15 unusual about a witness meeting with lawyers before testifying so that the witness can be aware  
16 of the subjects he or she will be questioned about, can focus on those subjects, and have the  
17 opportunity to review relevant exhibits before being questioned about them. Such consultation  
18 helps conserve our time during trial. In fact, it would be unusual for a lawyer to call a witness  
19 without such consultation.

20 Again, the weight you give to the fact or the nature of a witness's preparation for his or her  
21 testimony and what inferences you draw from such preparation are matters completely within your  
22 discretion.

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**B. Persons Not on Trial**

You may not draw any inference, favorable or unfavorable, toward the Government or Mr. Aryeetey from the fact that certain persons other than Mr. Aryeetey were not named in the Indictment. Nor may you speculate as to the reasons why other persons are not on trial. Those matters are wholly outside your concern and have no bearing on your function as jurors. In other words, your job is to determine whether the Government met its burden of proof with respect to Mr. Aryeetey and Mr. Aryeetey alone.

**C. Number of Witnesses**

The fact that one party called more witnesses and introduced more evidence than the other does not mean that you should necessarily find the facts in favor of the side offering the most witnesses or introducing the most evidence. You should keep in mind that the burden of proof is always on the Government and that Mr. Aryeetey is not required to call any witnesses or offer any evidence, since he is presumed to be not guilty.

**D. Expert Witnesses**

You have heard testimony from an expert witness. An expert witness is someone who, by education or experience, has acquired learning or experience in a specialized area of knowledge. Such a witness is permitted to express his or her opinions on matters about which he or she has specialized knowledge and training. The parties may present expert testimony to you on the theory that someone who is experienced in the field can assist you in understanding the evidence or in reaching an independent decision on the facts.

Your role in judging credibility applies to the expert as well as other witnesses. In weighing the expert's opinion, you may consider the expert's qualifications, education, and reasons for testifying, as well as all of the other considerations that ordinarily apply, including all the other

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1 evidence in the case. If you find the opinion of the expert is based on sufficient data, education,  
2 and experience, and the other evidence does not give you reason to doubt his conclusions, you  
3 would be justified in placing reliance on his testimony. However, you should not accept witness  
4 testimony simply because the witness is an expert. The determination of the facts in this case rests  
5 solely with you, the finders of fact.

6 **E. Law Enforcement or Government Witnesses**

7 You have heard the testimony of law enforcement or other government witnesses. The fact  
8 that a witness may be employed as a law enforcement official or government employee does not  
9 mean that his or her testimony is necessarily deserving of more or less consideration or greater or  
10 lesser weight than that of another witness.

11 At the same time, it is quite legitimate for defense counsel to try to attack the credibility of  
12 a law enforcement witness on the grounds that the witness's testimony may be colored by a  
13 personal or professional interest in the outcome of the case.

14 It is your decision, after reviewing all of the evidence, whether to accept the testimony of  
15 the law enforcement or government witnesses, as it is with every other type of witness, and to give  
16 to that testimony the weight you find it deserves.

17 **F. Use of Evidence Obtained Pursuant to Searches and Seizures**

18 You have heard testimony about or seen evidence seized in connection with certain  
19 searches or seizures conducted by law enforcement officers, including of certain electronic  
20 devices. Evidence obtained from these searches and seizures was properly admitted in this case,  
21 and may be properly considered by you. Indeed, such searches and seizures are entirely  
22 appropriate law enforcement actions. Whether you approve or disapprove of how evidence was  
23 obtained should not enter into your deliberations, because I instruct you that the Government's use

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1 of the evidence is entirely lawful. You must, therefore, regardless of your personal opinion, give  
2 this evidence full consideration along with all the other evidence in the case in determining whether  
3 the Government has proved Mr. Aryeetey's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Once again,  
4 however, it is for you to decide what weight, if any, to give to this evidence.

5 **G. Investigative Technique**

6 You have heard reference to the fact that certain investigative techniques were or were not  
7 used by law enforcement authorities. There is no legal requirement that law enforcement agents  
8 investigate crimes in a particular way or that the Government prove its case through any particular  
9 means. While you are to carefully consider the evidence presented, or the lack of evidence, you  
10 need not speculate as to why law enforcement used the techniques they did, or why they did not  
11 use other techniques. The Government is not on trial and law enforcement techniques are not your  
12 concern. Your sole concern is to determine whether or not, based on the evidence or lack of  
13 evidence, the guilt of Mr. Aryeetey has been established beyond a reasonable doubt.

14 **H. Recordings**

15 Audio and video recordings of various telephone conversations and events have been  
16 admitted into evidence. The Government's use of audio and video recordings as a method for  
17 gathering evidence is perfectly lawful, and the Government is entitled to use the recordings in this  
18 case.

19 **I. Uncalled Witnesses**

20 During the course of trial, you have heard reference to other persons who did not appear in  
21 court to testify. I instruct you that each party had equal opportunity, or lack of opportunity, to call  
22 any of these witnesses. Therefore, you should not draw any inferences or reach any conclusions

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1 as to what those witnesses would have testified to had they been called. Their absence should not  
2 affect your judgment in any way.

3 As I have said, the law does not impose on a defendant in a criminal case the burden or  
4 duty of calling any witnesses or producing any evidence, and the burden always rests with the  
5 Government to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

6 **J. Defendant's Right Not to Testify**

7 In this case, Mr. Aryeetey decided not to testify. You may not attach any significance or  
8 draw adverse inference to the fact that Mr. Aryeetey did not testify. You may not consider this  
9 against Mr. Aryeetey in any way in your deliberations in the jury room, and it should not be  
10 discussed.

11 This is because, under our Constitution, a defendant has no obligation to testify or to  
12 present any evidence, because it is the Government's burden to prove Mr. Aryeetey guilty beyond  
13 a reasonable doubt. That burden remains with the Government throughout the entire trial and  
14 never shifts to a defendant. A defendant is never required to prove that he is innocent.

15 **V. Final Instructions Regarding Jury Deliberations**

16 **A. Duties of the Foreperson**

17 The first thing you should do when you retire to deliberate is take a vote to select one of  
18 you to sit as your foreperson. The foreperson will send out any notes, and when the jury has  
19 reached a verdict, he or she will notify the Court Security Officer that the jury has reached a verdict,  
20 and when you come into open court, the foreperson will be asked to state what the verdict is.

21 **B. Right to See Exhibits and Hear Testimony; Communications with Court**

22 A list of the witnesses who testified at trial and of the exhibits introduced into evidence  
23 will be sent to you in the jury room, along with a copy of the Indictment, a copy of my instructions



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1 on the law, and a copy of the verdict form. Also in the jury room is a laptop computer on which  
2 we have uploaded the electronic exhibits that have been received in evidence during the trial. You  
3 therefore will be able to access and view any of the electronic exhibits in the jury room on that  
4 computer. And as I mentioned, you will have a list of these exhibits, which should help you  
5 identify any exhibits you wish to view on the screen.

6 In addition, if you want to see any hard copies of the exhibits or to read or hear any of the  
7 testimony during your deliberations, that can be arranged. The firearm that was introduced into  
8 evidence will not be sent back to the jury room, but if you wish to view it again I will arrange for  
9 you to see it in this courtroom. Please appreciate that it is not always easy to locate any testimony  
10 that you might want, so be as clear and precise as you possibly can. Any communication with me,  
11 whether requesting exhibits or testimony or otherwise, should be made in writing, signed by the  
12 foreperson with the date and time indicated, and given to the Court Security Officer. Any notes  
13 will become part of the record in this case. I will respond to any questions or requests you have  
14 as promptly as possible, either in writing or by having you return to the courtroom so I can speak  
15 with you in person. In any event, do not tell me or anyone else how the jury stands on the issue of  
16 Mr. Aryeetey' guilt until after a unanimous verdict is reached.

17 **C. Notes**

18 Many of you have taken notes periodically throughout this trial. I want to emphasize to  
19 you, as you are about to begin your deliberations, that notes are simply an aid to memory. Notes  
20 that any of you may have taken should not be given any greater weight or influence in the  
21 determination of the case than the recollections or impressions of other jurors, whether from notes  
22 or memory, with respect to the evidence presented or what conclusions, if any, should be drawn  
23 from such evidence. Any difference between a juror's recollections and another juror's notes

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1 should be settled by referring to the transcript, for it is the court record rather than any juror's notes  
2 upon which the jury must base its determination of the facts and its verdict.

3 **D. Improper Considerations: Race, Religion, National Origin, Sex, or Age**

4 Your verdict must be based solely upon the evidence developed at trial or the lack of  
5 evidence. In reaching your decision as to whether the Government sustained its burden of proof,  
6 it would be improper for you to consider any personal feelings—positive or negative—you may  
7 have about a defendant's race, religion, national origin, sex, or age. Mr. Aryeetey and the  
8 Government are entitled to a trial free from prejudice, and our judicial system cannot work unless  
9 you reach your verdict through a fair and impartial consideration of the evidence.

10 **E. Verdict Form and Return of Verdict**

11 We have prepared a verdict form for you to use in recording your decisions. After you  
12 have reached a verdict, the foreperson should fill in the verdict sheet, sign it noting the date and  
13 time, and then give a **note**—not the verdict sheet—to the Court Security Officer outside your door  
14 stating simply that you have reached a verdict. **Do not** specify what the verdict is in your note.  
15 Instead, the foreperson should retain the verdict sheet, and give the verdict to me in open court  
16 when you are all called in.

17 I will stress again that each of you must be in agreement with the verdict that is announced  
18 in court. Once your verdict is announced by your foreperson in open court and officially recorded,  
19 it cannot ordinarily be revoked.

20 **F. Juror Oath**

21 I remind you that you took an oath to render judgment impartially and fairly, without  
22 prejudice or sympathy, solely upon the evidence in the case and the applicable law. I know that  
23 you will do this and reach a just and true verdict.

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1 Under your oath as jurors, you are not to be swayed by sympathy. If you let sympathy—  
2 or for that matter, prejudice or bias—interfere with your thinking, there is a risk that you will not  
3 arrive at a true and just verdict. Rather, you are to be guided solely by the evidence in this case  
4 and the law as I have instructed you. And as you sift through that evidence, the crucial question  
5 for you and you alone to decide as to the count against Mr. Aryeetey is: Has the Government  
6 proved each element beyond a reasonable doubt?

7 If you have a reasonable doubt as to Mr. Aryeetey's guilt, then you must render a verdict  
8 of acquittal. But, on the other hand, if you find that the Government has met its burden of proving  
9 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, then you should not hesitate because of sympathy or any other  
10 reason to render a verdict of guilty.

11 I also caution you that, under your oath as jurors, you cannot allow to enter into your  
12 deliberations any consideration of the punishment that may be imposed upon Mr. Aryeetey if he  
13 is convicted. The duty of imposing a sentence in the event of conviction rests exclusively with me  
14 and the issue of punishment may not affect your deliberations as to whether the Government has  
15 established Mr. Aryeetey's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

16 **G. Everyone Must be Present**

17 You are not to discuss the case unless all jurors are present. Nine, ten, or even eleven jurors  
18 together is only a gathering of individuals. Only when all twelve jurors are present do you  
19 constitute a jury, and only then may you deliberate.

20 **H. Remaining Issues**

21 I will ask you to remain seated while I confer with the attorneys to see if there are any  
22 additional instructions that they would like me to give to you, or if there is anything I may not have  
23 covered.

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**VI. Conclusion**

Members of the jury, that concludes my instructions to you. You may now retire to the jury room and begin this phase of your deliberations. As the first matter of business, please select a foreperson and send me a note, signed, dated, and timed, through the Court Security Officer, telling me whom you have elected as your foreperson. In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that if you listen to the views of your fellow jurors and if you apply your own common sense you will reach a fair verdict here.